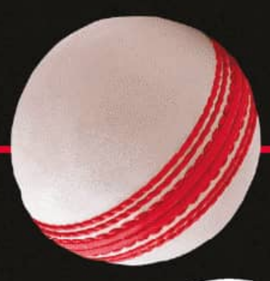
BENGALURU, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 18 | Humidity 25% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 77,566 | Nifty 24,028 | Gold 1,60,312 | Silver 2,65,843 | Dollar 92.27 | Euro 106.73 | GBP 123.33

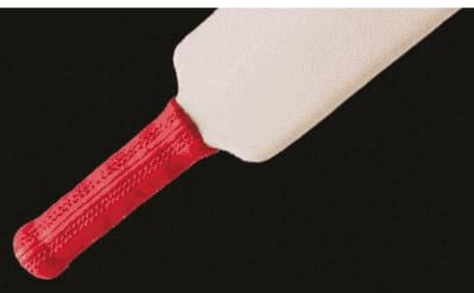
The trophy is home



And the fandom continues on YouTube

YouTube is where sports come to life

Scan to know more



20% higher watchtime on non-live sports content vs live

YouTube ROI is 3x of OTT and 2.4x of TV

There's only one YouTube

Source
1. Google commissioned Kantar Sports Fan Research 2024, Deloitte analysis.
2. In an MMM meta-analysis we commissioned with Nielsen, on average, YouTube effectiveness was 24.11 times greater than Linear TV effectiveness across Total CPG MMMs that measured YouTube, Other Digital, and Linear TV from Jan'20- Sep'23 in India. According to a meta analysis of CPG MMM Studies by Analytic Edge in India, YouTube ROI was 3.0x of OTT Platforms ROI (2021-2024)

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TALE OF TRASH

Audit finds coordination gaps in waste collection system, lack of citizen participation behind garbage blackspots

PAGE 4

ON THE MOVE

Shakti effect: Women make up 62% of daily bus passengers across state-run transport corporations in Karnataka

PAGE 5

Leaf shredders procured to use dry leaves in compost pits bought 3 years ago have been locked away in a room and officials seem to have thrown away the key as nobody with knowledge on how to operate these machines were appointed

SHRED BITTER TEARS FOR YET ANOTHER FORGOTTEN PLAN

Compost pits of at least 2 parks in West B'luru are overflowing and leaves are being transported out

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"I have been visiting all the parks in the BWCC. We will make a provision to appoint someone to operate the shredder this year

— Mohammed Ali, Bengaluru West City Corporation (Horticulture) Superintendent

Bengaluru is yet again in the unique cusp of fall and spring that has all trees blossoming and shedding leaves at the same time. In order to make good use of the dry leaves, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao had issued an order in July to set up leaf composting units at all parks in the city. All the City Corporations were asked to procure leaf shredder machines to shred organic waste generated at the parks and to speed up the composting.

This has turned out to be yet another welcome initiative that has gone to waste. Many residents of Hosakerehalli and Girinagar are dissatisfied with the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) Horticulture Department for becoming oblivious to the existence of leaf shredders.

They complain that leaf shredders procured three years ago have been lying idle ever since. For example, a leaf shredder was kept in a small room that remained closed for the last few years at Sri Visvesvaraya Park at Girinagar. The park is a destination for hundreds of people who visit it in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

In search of lost time

Counselling helps girl remember tiny detail that ends up reuniting her with her family after 7 years

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It almost sounds like the plot of a suspense film. A child goes missing. Years pass with no trace. A tiny memory becomes the only lead. And finally, against all odds, the story reaches its emotional climax.

Nearly seven years after she was separated from her parents, a 14-year-old girl has finally reunited with her family in Kengeri. The breakthrough came from a single detail she remembered during a counselling session, a small clue that eventually led officials straight to her home.

The girl had been living in a government child care home in Mysuru after she was rescued while begging near a bus stand within the limits of Lashkar Police Station.

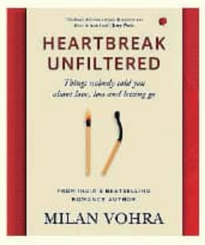
At that time, she was too young and traumatised to explain where she had come from. She could only recall her own name and the names of her parents. There was no address, neighbourhood, or relatives she could identify.

With no leads, the child was placed in a government run girls' home under the supervision of child welfare authorities. Life slowly moved forward. She was enrolled in a government school and continued

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Tales of heartbreak



Atta Galatta is hosting a discussion on 'Heartbreak Unfiltered: Things Nobody Told You About Love, Loss and Letting Go' by Milan Vohra, which brings together 20 real stories from across the world that explore the many faces of heartbreak.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: March 14, 6 pm

02 Play time

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'Chippi, The Chipkali', a puppet play featuring the tale of a baby lizard who loses its tail and is mocked by others, as part of Take a Child to the Theatre 2026 campaign.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: March 20, 7.30 pm

03 Classical twist

Banyan Tree Events is presenting Symphony of Santoor, a grand musical experience which reimagines the instrument within a sweeping orchestral canvas while retaining the depth and purity of Indian classical tradition.
Where: Maanikya Hall, Chamara Vajra;
When: March 18, 8 pm

04 Turn it up

SANAM, one of India`s most cherished pop-rock groups, known for fusing old-world charm with a contemporary sound will be performing live, bringing an unforgettable musical experience.
Where: Phoenix Marketcity;
When: March 14, 7.30 pm

05 Notes of remembrance

The Information and Public Relations Department, Bengaluru Urban District, in collaboration with Bengaluru Urban District Administration Zilla Panchayat and Dr BR Ambedkar Study Centre, Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, is organising Bhima Gayana, a musical tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar.
Where: Jnanajyoti Auditorium, Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University;
When: March 10, 10 am

Shared Iftar experiences gain ground in B'luru

Various events across city create spaces for individuals to gather, bond and enjoy Iftar together, offering diverse culinary options and curated activities, making each gathering distinctive

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Bengaluru is witnessing a growing trend of community Iftar gatherings, where people from different neighborhoods come together to break the fast during Ramzan, fostering a sense of cultural exchange and communal bonding. Through social media invitations, neighbourhood networks, and community groups, hosts are now inviting strangers and friends alike to share meals, dates, traditional drinks, and stories in an inclusive atmosphere.

One such event was the community Iftar organised by Nalapad brothers at Blanc, which drew over 100 participants. "Every year, we aim to bring our friends together, to showcase how our culture works, how we fast, and the significance of prayers during Ramzan. The response has been overwhelming, and the spirit of togetherness is exactly what we wanted to create," said Uzair Elaan, one of the hosts.

In a similar event, Iftaar-e-Khushboo was hosted by Ash Labs and programmed by Eclipse Media as a unique women-centric Iftar circle at JW Marriott. Initially planned for 30 women, the gathering drew over 70 participants, all eager to experience the Middle Eastern-style Iftar atmosphere. The organisers, two female hosts, curated a space where women could connect, celebrate, and enjoy the Iftar experience without the pressures of dining out. "Everyone wants to go out and eat, but there aren't many Iftars like this that focus on community and culture. This concept is common in the Middle East, where women gather in separate circles for Iftar, creating a space to relax, bond, and celebrate together. We wanted to bring that vibe here where women can enjoy the spirit of Ramzan, indulge in delicious food, and connect with each other in a meaningful way," said Uzair from Eclipse Media.

The menu features an assortment of traditional Mughlai and Awadhi dishes, including iconic items like Paya, Nihari, Murgh Qorma and Dum Biryani. It also offers a variety of kebabs, tikkas and vegetarian specialities.

Another event, Raunaq-e-Eid, an after-Eid celebration to be held on March 29 by Sumaiya Javeed, extends this sense of community. With separate areas for women and children, the gathering features high tea, craft workshops, and festive traditions such as Gajre and Eidi exchange, along with various other activities to make the celebration lively and interactive.

File photo of Ramzan preparations at a shop

Many Iftar events are creating unique experiences, catering to diverse groups through wide range of food options, activities, and customised spaces such as women-centric gatherings

Criminal cases against students condemned

A group of representatives from Karnataka's academic, literary, and cultural circles have strongly condemned the decision of Azim Premji University administration to file criminal cases against its own students, demanding that the complaints be withdrawn immediately.

In a letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor of the university's Sarjapur campus in Bengaluru, the signatories expressed concern over the police complaints filed against students associated with the 'Spark Reading Circle.' According to them, while universities have the right to conduct internal disciplinary processes, filing criminal cases under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the IT Act for organising a discussion is an extreme and disproportionate measure.

The letter emphasised that educational institutions, especially universities, should encourage discussion and dialogue among students. Such spaces, they said, help students critically examine societal structures and governance. The signatories argued that instead of supporting students and ensuring their safety, the university administration chose to initiate legal action against them.

They further alleged that outsiders had entered the university campus, caused disturbances, and assaulted students during the incident. In such a situation, they said, the university authorities should have taken firm action to protect the students and reassure them.

The signatories urged the university administration to withdraw the police complaint filed against the students associated with the Spark Reading Circle. The group expressed hope that the university would reconsider its stance and resolve the issue in a manner that supports open dialogue and protects students' rights within the campus. **–BMB**

Bangalore Mirror celebrates Women's Day with women newspaper vendors

Deepa, Vijaya Bank Layout

Vijayalakshmi, 9th block Jayanagar

Lavanya, Gandhi Bazar

Bhagyamma, Gandhi Bazar

Lakshamma, Hosahalli

Gowramma, KP Agrahara

Sowmya Mahadev, KP Agrahara

Varalakshmi Nagaraju, Attiguppe

Shyalaja NM, Tunganagar

Bhagya, Rajajinagar OPS

Shobha, Malleswaram

Nagarathna Gupta, Gandhinagar

Maalathi, PG Halli

Over 100 stolen mobile phones recovered

In a special operation carried out by 13 police stations under the North Division of the Bengaluru City Police, officials successfully recovered 107 stolen mobile phones through the use of the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, with the devices collectively valued at Rs 21.4 lakh, on March 9.

The operation was conducted under the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North Division, in collaboration with the CEN Cyber Crime Police Station, Yeshwanthpur, Malleshwaram and JC Nagar Sub Division Police Stations.

Citizens registered details of their lost devices either on the CEIR portal or at their nearest police station, which reportedly helped in quicker recovery.

The RT Nagar Police Station facilitated the recovery of 21 phones, followed by Jalahalli with 14, JC Nagar with 12, Mahalaxmi Layout and Sanjaynagar with 8 each, Rajajinagar with 7, Subramanyanagar, Nandini Layout, Malleshwaram, and Hebbal with 6 each, Yeshwanthpur with 5, and both RMC Yard and Srirampura with 4 mobile phones recovered. — BMB

Two-wheeler rider booked for reckless stunts

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have registered a case against a two-wheeler rider who was caught performing dangerous wheelies on the busy streets of Kumaraswamy Layout. The incident, which occurred at the intersection of 7th Main Road and 8th Cross Road within the Kumaraswamy Layout Police Station limits, was captured on CCTV footage.

Police officials stated that the rider was endangering not only his own life but also the lives of daily commuters and pedestrians. He was seen lifting the front wheel of his bike while accelerating along a narrow stretch of road, an act that alarmed onlookers and prompted them to seek police intervention.

The police authorities are filing charges against the two-wheeler rider under the Motor Vehicles Act and are initiating legal proceedings. To discourage similar incidents, police shared the video of the stunt, stressing that such reckless acts by young riders who ignore traffic rules put both themselves and the public at risk.

Citizens have been urged to report such incidents, with authorities assuring swift action. —BMB

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Police probe woman's alleged suicide

A 27-year-old housewife allegedly committed suicide on late Sunday night within the limits of Hennur Police Station, prompting an investigation by the police.

The deceased has been identified as Supritha (27), who had been married to Kiran Kumar for the past five years and was living with their 2-year-old child. According to police officials, Supritha was a homemaker, while her husband, employed at a real estate agency selling plots, often clashed with her due to ongoing family disputes.

Police said the incident was reported to them on Monday morning after Supritha was found hanging at her residence. Her husband stated that she died by suicide. However, officials have said that the exact circumstances surrounding her death remain unclear.

Officials stated that no suicide note was recovered from the spot. Supritha's parents have alleged a case of dowry-related death. Police said the exact cause of death will be determined only after the post-mortem report is received, following which further investigation will proceed.

The body has been shifted to a government hospital for a post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Police have registered a case of unnatural death and begun an investigation. —BMB

Four trapped in lift rescued

Four residents of an apartment complex in Babusapalya were safely rescued after being trapped in a malfunctioning lift in the early morning hours of March 9, 2026. Responding swiftly to a distress call made to Namma112, the police operator alerted Hoysala 52, which reached the spot within 12 minutes.

Police personnel immediately began efforts to free the trapped individuals, working continuously for nearly an hour before successfully forcing open the lift door. The residents, shaken by the incident, were brought out safely.

The Hennur police ensured all safety protocols were followed, underscoring their commitment to public welfare under the Bengaluru City Police's Safe City Project. —BMB

Cab driver burnt alive after car catches fire

A 70-year-old cab driver died after the car he was travelling in suddenly caught fire near Achepalli village in Bagepalli taluk of Chikkaballapura district on Monday, leaving him trapped inside the burning vehicle.

The deceased has been identified as Uday Kumar, a resident of Penumale village. According to police, the incident occurred when he was travelling alone in his car near Achepalli village when the vehicle suddenly caught fire. Police suspect that the blaze may have been triggered by a short circuit in the vehicle. Within minutes, the flames spread rapidly and engulfed the entire car, trapping the driver inside before he could escape.

Local residents who noticed the fire rushed to the spot and attempted to douse the flames and rescue the victim. However, the fire spread quickly and their efforts proved futile. By the time the blaze was brought under control, Uday Kumar had already been burnt alive inside the vehicle. The car was completely gutted in the incident, police said. Personnel from Bagepalli Police Station visited the spot, conducted a preliminary inspection and shifted the charred remains for post-mortem examination.

A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire. —BMB

Man dies by suicide after share market losses

A 50-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after jumping in front of a moving train near Hebbal, reportedly due to heavy financial losses in the share market and mounting personal stress.

The deceased has been identified as Venkatesh (50). According to preliminary investigations, he had been actively trading in the stock market and had reportedly suffered significant financial setbacks in recent months. Police said he was also facing certain health issues, which added to his distress.

Police officials revealed that Venkatesh had been under considerable mental pressure due to financial difficulties and alleged demands from creditors to repay borrowed money. Unable to cope with the situation, he allegedly took the extreme step.

Officials from the Baiyappanahalli Railway Police Station rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident. The police conducted a preliminary inquiry and shifted the body to a government hospital for post-mortem examination.

A case of unnatural death has been registered, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact circumstances leading to the incident. Police are also trying to gather more details from family members and associates of the deceased as part of the probe. —BMB

Abducted real estate agent found dead in Tamil Nadu

Police said on Monday that a real estate agent who was allegedly abducted near Anekal on Sunday evening was later found murdered near Denkanikottai in Tamil Nadu.

The deceased has been identified as Gopal, who was involved in real estate and financial dealings in the Anekal region. According to police, Gopal was travelling in his car along with an associate near Karpur Gate on Sunday evening when unidentified assailants intercepted their vehicle. The accused allegedly rammed the car, abducted Gopal and fled from the spot.

Police said the accused took him towards Denkanikottai, where he was attacked with sharp weapons and killed. His body was later recovered on Monday morning.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that the murder may have been linked to a business rivalry. Police suspect that a man identified as Mohan Babu had allegedly given a contract of Rs 25 lakh to eliminate Gopal. Based on this information, a few suspects have been taken into custody for questioning. Further investigation is underway. —BMB

Man beaten to death with a brick

A young man was brutally murdered after being attacked with a hollow block brick near Gollahalli Gutte Maidan in Bannerghatta, police said on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Tilak Gudde (23). According to police, unidentified assailants allegedly struck Tilak on the head with a hollow block brick, causing severe head injuries that led to his death on the spot. After committing the crime, the accused fled from the scene on Sunday evening around 7 pm.

The body was later noticed by local residents in the open ground, who immediately alerted the police. Personnel from Bannerghatta Police Station rushed to the spot and secured the area. A team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) also visited the scene and collected evidence to aid the investigation.

Preliminary inquiries indicate that the murder may have stemmed from a drunken altercation. Police officials suspect the fight could have begun over an issue allegedly involving a girl, though the exact motive behind the attack is yet to be confirmed. Police are examining various angles, including personal enmity and disputes that may have led to the assault. —BMB

Woman injured in hit-and-run accident, driver absconding

In a hit-and-run case on 1st Cross, Jayamahal Main Road, under the RT Nagar Police Station jurisdiction, a car struck a two-wheeler and dragged it for nearly 100 metres. The crash was captured on CCTV installed on the street.

The incident occurred on Saturday evening and quickly gained traction online as the video spread across social media. The rider, identified as Pooja from Sanjay Nagar, was caught in the collision as the car continued moving with the bike trapped beneath it.

Several metres down the road, petrol began leaking from the two-wheeler, leading to flames that engulfed the bike and the SUV's tyres while the vehicle was still in motion. CCTV footage showed the driver abandoning the car along with other occupants once it caught fire, leaving the injured woman on the road.

Pooja sustained serious injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she is undergoing treatment. Police are closely monitoring her condition and have launched a probe into the absconding driver of the car. Further investigation is underway. —BMB

Garbage blackspots expose city's broken waste system

BNP audit finds coordination gaps in Bengaluru waste collection system, says lack of citizen participation and timing issues contribute to persistent garbage blackspots

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

An audit report on blackspots in Bengaluru has highlighted that the current garbage collection system does not account for the daily realities of residents in the city.

The report by Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) suggests that while waste collection is actively happening in the city, the lack of decentralised citizen participation is contributing to blackspots.

The audit points to several micro-infrastructure and behavioural hurdles that prevent residents from using the door-to-door system effectively.

Key issues include a timing mismatch where residents are away during collection hours, fear of stray dogs tearing open bags left outside, and restrictive rules by landlords in rental properties. Once a blackspot forms, it often becomes a regular dumping point for the community, the report notes. This indicates a coordination and communication gap rather than a complete operational failure in waste collection.

"We aim to shift the focus from surface-level cleaning to root cause elimination. These audit findings suggest that dumping isn't always a sign of negligence but rather the sign of a system that has not evolved to meet the needs of a working-class neighbourhood. Cleaning a black spot is merely a temporary fix, and the only permanent solution is the formal constitution of Area Sabhas. By institutionalising Area Sabhas, we can move from reactive to proactive action through community-led governance that fixes the issue once and for all," said Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder of the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP).

Kasa Kiosks suggested for residents missing garbage collection window

Experts say decentralised civic platforms could build awareness, monitor contractor performance and provide a structured feedback channel to the municipal corporation

Experts say decentralised civic platforms could build awareness, monitor contractor performance and provide a structured feedback channel to the municipal corporation.

To address the immediate problem, BNP has recommended a 15-day action plan for ward officials. This includes ensuring complete street coverage by contractors, immediate disinfection of blackspots and installation of 'Kasa Kiosks' or community bins for residents who miss the collection window.

Complaints spark action as Banjara Road work begins

Residents thank BECC engineers for addressing Banjara Arch Road drain issue, seek speedy completion of work and proper road restoration

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

> **I want to thank and appreciate Assistant Executive Engineer Arpitha for commencing the work. The restoration of the footpath and asphalting the road would mitigate our problems and avoid traffic jams during peak hours**
>
> –A resident

Residents of Banjara Layout have welcomed and appreciated Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) authorities for commencing the upgradation of the roadside drain and clearing debris and slabs kept along Banjara Arch Road. They have urged officials to complete the ongoing developmental work without further delay and asphalt the road soon for the benefit of motorists, pedestrians and children who use the stretch daily.

Bangalore Mirror had published a report titled Fixing drain, breaking road: Banjara Road in limbo on March 8, highlighting how incomplete drain work on Banjara Arch Road left debris, an open drain and traffic congestion, causing inconvenience to pedestrians, motorists and nearby residents.

BANGALORE IMPACT MIRROR

Mohammed Shafi, social activist and President of the RKBR Association, who had earlier raised the issue on behalf of residents, thanked the BECC engineers for responding to the concerns of the community and taking steps to resolve the civic problems.

"We sincerely thank BECC Assistant Executive Engineer Arpita and her team for taking immediate steps to address the problem after it was brought to their attention. The residents of Banjara Layout truly appreciate the swift response and the commencement of the work," he said, adding that he hopes the ongoing work would lead to a permanent and long-term solution, including proper drainage, improved sewage systems and a well-maintained road that ensures safe movement for pedestrians and vehicles.

"I want to thank and appreciate Assistant Executive Engineer Arpitha for commencing the work. The restoration of the footpath and asphalting the road would mitigate our problems and avoid traffic jams during peak hours. I hope the authorities will complete all the pending work as early as possible," a resident said.

Bangalore Mirror
Fixing drain, breaking road: Banjara Road in limbo
Incomplete drain work on Banjara Arch Road leaves debris, open drain, traffic congestion, causing inconvenience to pedestrians, motorists and nearby residents

Bangalore Mirror had published on March 8, highlighting how incomplete drain work on Banjara Arch Road causing inconvenience to the citizens

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Public danger
Indiranagar

A BSNL junction box has reportedly been nailed to a tree with exposed wires at the corner of 1st Main, Defence Colony and 4th Cross in Indiranagar, raising safety concerns among residents.

Vehicle clutter
Nagarbhavi

Residents in BDA Nagarbhavi have complained that three unused cars have been parked in a parking area for several months, causing inconvenience to customers and prompting calls for traffic police action.

Road obstruction
Peenya

Motorists near Platinum City Signal in Peenya say a wrongly parked car frequently disrupts traffic, causing delays during peak hours.

Possession of child pornographic content is offence under POCSO Act

The Karnataka High Court has held that storing child pornographic material on a digital device can itself constitute an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology (IT) Act, even if the material is not transmitted or shared.

Justice M Nagaprasanna made the observation while dismissing a petition filed by an accused seeking to quash criminal proceedings pending before a special court in Bengaluru. The case arose from a criminal investigation during which the petitioner's mobile phone was seized and subjected to forensic examination.

The petitioner argued that although certain images and videos were allegedly found on his device, there was no evidence to show that he had circulated, published or transmitted the material. On this basis, he contended that the legal ingredients required to establish the offences were not satisfied.

The High Court rejected this contention, observing that the legal provisions governing child sexual abuse material are broad and do not restrict criminal liability only to cases involving distribution or publication.

"The mere act of storing child pornographic material in a device cannot be treated lightly, as the statute recognises such conduct as a punishable offence," the court observed.

According to the prosecution, forensic analysis of the seized phone revealed several images and videos depicting sexually explicit acts involving children. Based on these findings, police registered offences under Section 67B of the IT Act and Section 15 of the POCSO Act.

"The provision makes it clear that storage of child pornographic material itself can attract penal consequences. The statute intends to curb the menace at its very inception," the court observed.

IN HIGH COURT

The court noted that the trial had reached the stage of recording evidence and declined to quash the proceedings, allowing trial to continue. –BMB

Consensual relationship cannot become criminal case

The Karnataka High Court has observed that a consensual relationship between adults cannot later be treated as a criminal offence merely because a promise of marriage was not fulfilled. The court said the criminal justice system should not be used to settle disputes that arise after a relationship ends.

The observation came while the court heard a petition filed by a man seeking to quash criminal proceedings initiated against him. A complaint alleged that he had entered a physical relationship with a woman on the assurance that he would marry her but later failed to do so.

While examining the case, the court noted that criminal law should not be invoked when two adults willingly enter a relationship and later part ways. It stressed that the collapse of a relationship does not automatically mean that a promise to marry was dishonest from the outset.

The court also referred to provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita that criminalise sexual relations obtained through deception, including promises of marriage made without genuine intention. However, it clarified that these provisions address clear cases of deceit and exploitation, not relationships that end unsuccessfully.

After reviewing the facts, the High Court found that the allegations did not establish grounds for criminal prosecution and set aside the proceedings against the petitioner. –BMB

Power of a scheme: 62% of bus passengers in K'taka are women

Free travel under Shakti Scheme boosts Karnataka bus ridership, with women passengers now forming majority across KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC

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Women passengers more than double in KSRTC buses after scheme

BMTC recorded a rise in daily ridership from 33.67 lakh before the scheme to 42.98 lakh in 2025–26. Women commuters increased from 16.84 lakh to 24.36 lakh, raising their share from 50% to 57%.

The implementation of the Shakti Scheme has significantly increased public bus ridership across Karnataka, with women now forming most commuters on state-run buses. Recent statistics comparing the period before and after the scheme show a sharp rise in both daily passengers and the proportion of women using public transport.

Women now make up 62% of daily bus passengers across state-run transport corporations in Karnataka, according to data from the Economic Survey 2025–26 assessing the impact of the Shakti Scheme.

Statistics comparing passenger numbers before and after the scheme show steady growth in daily commuters across four state transport corporations: KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC.

Before the scheme was introduced, daily ridership across these corporations stood at an estimated 93.46 lakh passengers in 2022–23, of which 37.49 lakh were women, accounting for 40% of the total passenger share. However, the figures rose sharply after the rollout of the Shakti Scheme. By 2024–25, total daily ridership increased to 115.91 lakh passengers, while the number of women commuters jumped to 67.03 lakh, raising their share to 58%.

The upward trend continued in 2025–26 (up to December), when daily ridership reached 121.14 lakh passengers. Out of this, 75.68 lakh passengers were women, increasing their share to 62%, indicating a significant shift in the gender composition of public transport users. Corporation-wise data also highlights the scale of the change.

In KSRTC buses, daily ridership increased from 29.72 lakh before the scheme to 34.81 lakh in 2025–26. Women passengers more than doubled from 10.4 lakh to 23.01 lakh, pushing their share from 35% to 66%. BMTC, which operates mainly in Bengaluru, recorded a rise in daily ridership from 33.67 lakh before the scheme to 42.98 lakh in 2025–26. Women commuters increased from 16.84 lakh to 24.36 lakh, raising their share from 50% to 57%.

Tara Krishnaswamy, independent policy consultant, said the sharp rise in women passengers across Karnataka's state transport services highlights long-suppressed demand for mobility. In a study, she found women now account for nearly two-thirds of passengers, showing earlier mobility needs remained unmet. She noted women's movement has long been limited by social norms and affordability barriers. The surge in trips after free travel shows cost strongly influences mobility choices. She added the trend should prompt authorities to expand bus fleets and improve services while ensuring balanced ridership.

In the 2026–27 State Budget, the Government of Karnataka allocated 5,300 crore for the Shakti Scheme. The plan includes adding 1,000 diesel buses. BMTC will develop 32 electric bus depots, while 62 additional depots will be set up statewide to support induction of 4,000 electric buses into public transport fleets.

"The Government of Karnataka should invest more in public transport across the state, within cities, and particularly in Bengaluru. Free mobility for women has now become common across several states. Studies show women usually walk shorter distances and use buses for longer trips, while men often prefer personal vehicles for longer commutes. Women also tend to be more environmentally conscious in travel behaviour. Increasing the number of buses and continuing free travel could encourage women to use buses even for shorter distances," added Krishnaswamy.

Ward list: Women's quota missing

The final ward reservation list released by the Urban Development Department for the much-awaited elections to five civic corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority has triggered controversy, as the mandated 50 percent reservation for women has not been fully implemented.

Out of 369 wards across five corporations, rules require 185 seats to be reserved for women, but the final list has allotted only 176 wards, leaving a shortfall of nine seats. The issue had already drawn objections from several political leaders when the draft reservation list was released in January, and the continued shortfall in the final notification has raised the possibility of the matter being challenged in court.

Officials said ward reservations were structured based on the 2011 Census. The list includes 43 seats for Scheduled Castes, 9 for Scheduled Tribes, 97 for Backward Class 'A', 24 for Backward Class 'B', and 198 under the general category. Across the five corporations, women have been allotted 176 seats, below the mandated quota. –BMB

Draft voter list crosses 88 lakh

The revised draft electoral roll for the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) includes a total of 88,92,528 voters, District Election Officer and Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said. The five corporations together comprise 369 wards. The draft list includes 45,69,752 male voters, 43,21,143 female voters and 1,635 others, with 8,024 polling stations planned across the city.

Among the wards, Subramanyapura (Ward 51) in Bengaluru South has the highest number of voters at 54,026, while Kottur (Ward 16) in Bengaluru East has the lowest with 10,940 voters.

Authorities have allowed the public to submit claims and objections regarding the voter list from March 10 to March 16, 2026. The final electoral roll will be published on April 6, 2026. The ward-wise draft voter list will also be available on the official GBA website, where voters can verify their names using their EPIC number or name. –BMB

Patient counselling, persistent efforts pay off

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her studies, eventually reaching Class 9 while staying at the facility.

Behind the scenes, officials kept trying to trace her family, but every attempt hit a dead end. Years passed like this, until a counselling session changed everything.

NT Yogesh, child protection official said, "For many years the girl could not remember where she lived. During a recent interaction, the girl suddenly remembered something from her childhood. It was not an address or a landmark people usually mention. Just one small detail. She said her house was located near a mosque in Kengeri.

For officials of the District Child Protection Unit, it was the first real lead in years. What followed was almost like a ground level investigation. Teams, along with anganwadi workers, began visiting houses located near mosques across Kengeri. They spoke to residents, checked family details and slowly started piecing together the possibility of a match."

After several rounds of verification, the search finally reached the girl's parents and relatives in Bengaluru. When the confirmation came, it was the moment everyone had been waiting for. The emotional reunion brought relief not only to the family but also to the officials who had spent years trying to solve what once seemed like an impossible case.

Ravichandra, a counsellor said, "Counselling played a crucial role in helping the child reconnect with fragments of her past. That one memory, a mosque near her home, became the key that unlocked the mystery. For child welfare authorities, the case stands as a powerful reminder. Even when information is scarce and years have passed, patient counselling and persistent efforts can still bring missing children back to their families. And sometimes, all it takes is one small memory to rewrite the ending of a story that once seemed lost."

Compost plan using dry leaves lies in shreds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

morning and in the evening for a walk. They are happy with the amenities at the park but expressed concern over the lack of compost facility.

They said the park generates a huge quantity of dry leaves during summer and the compost pits are full with dry leaves. "I saw a contractor engaged by the Horticulture Department transporting dry leaves to another location as the compost pits here are full. The Horticulture Department officials must use the shredder that has been lying idle for the last few years. Shredding of dry leaves will shorten the process of composting," said L Jeevan of Karnataka Rashtra Samithi.

Expressing concern over the waste of tax-payers' money for procurement of shredders that haven't been put to use at Sri Vidya Park, a resident of Sri Vidyanagar told BM that the then BBMP South Zone (Project) Department constructed a room and kept a shredder in it and the room has remained locked for all these years. "There is no one to operate the shredder. The Horticulture Department officials did not bother to ensure that the shredder is used by appointing a person who can operate this machine," said the resident.

A resident, pleading anonymity, said the residents welfare association, in association with the Horticulture Department, has been working hard for the upkeep of the park. "The RWA had struggled a lot to save this park from the land mafia. It is developed as per the honourable High Court order. We have all amenities at the park except an employee or worker for operating the shredder," he said.

Bengaluru West City Corporation (Horticulture) Superintendent Mohammed Ali told BM these parks were transferred to the BWCC jurisdiction only recently. "I have been visiting all the parks in the BWCC. We will make a provision to appoint someone to operate the shredder this year. All the measures will be taken to operate all the shredders installed at the parks," he said.

Commercial LPG shortage hits Bengaluru hotels

Hotels and eateries across Bengaluru are facing operational difficulties due to a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in the city, according to the Bruhat Bengaluru Hostels Association.

Association president PC Rao said many establishments are not receiving commercial gas cylinders, which is affecting their daily operations. Hotels, bakeries, tea stalls, paying guest accommodations and hospital canteens are among those struggling to function.

Rao said the supply of commercial LPG cylinders has been disrupted for some time now. As the hotel industry falls under essential services, a large number of people depend on these establishments for their daily meals. This includes common citizens, senior citizens, students and people working in medical and other essential services.

"If the supply issue continues, it will become very difficult for us to run our hotels. The hotel industry will also face serious challenges until the gas supply returns to normal," he said.

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah criticised the recent increase in LPG cylinder prices announced by the Central government. The Chief Minister said the government has increased the price of commercial LPG cylinders by Rs 115 and domestic cylinders by Rs 60. "This hike is very high and many people feel it is not justified. What they are doing is not right," he said. Responding to questions from reporters, Siddaramaiah clarified that concerns regarding the supply of cylinders and the increase in LPG prices are two separate issues. **BMB**

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Change of Name

I, Davanamma W/o Prabhu R. residing at Peenya, Bangalore. My name in my Aadhar Card is Usharani .H.N instead of Davanamma. But above both the names are mine only. I certify in the presence of Advocate & Notary R.Shivanna Chari that for the future, I will use my name as Davanamma.

NOTICE: Original Sale Deed dated 30.08.2011 (BNG (U) YLNK/2989/2011-12, SRO Yelahanka) for Site No. 36, Jayasurya Nagar 2nd Phase, Agrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, in the name of S. N. Bhagyalakshmi, along with Lokaseva Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd. Allotment Letter and BDA Khatha (Property ID 6000017129) are lost. Any claim may be intimated within 15 days. Sd/- Bhagyalakshmi

I Sumanth Balaji R/o YD Lotus Apt No 302 1st main 2nd cross Ashirwad colony Horamavu Bengaluru-43 Have changed my name to Sumanth Balaji Nigade.

I, (Unmesh Jayant Khadilkar) S/O (Jayant Ganesh Khadilkar) born on (24/06/1978) R/o (Villa A9 Prestige summer fields, Gear School Road Bhoganahalli Bellandur Bengaluru-560103), have changed my name to (UNMESH KHADILKAR) vide affidavit dated (07/03/2026) at (Bengaluru).

I, ZUBAIR ABDUL RAHMAN Residing at No.110/2, B Block J-101, Kalakandeshwara Nilaya, Kundalahalli, Bangalore - 560037, have changed my name to ZUBAIR ABDUL RAHAMAN, vide affidavit dated 20/01/2026 sworn before notary Venka-taraju H G, Bangalore,

I, REEMA MOUDGIL, REEMA M PARASHAR, No C - 1202, Mahindra Windchines, 18- Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, I here by declare that REEMA MOUDGIL and REEMA M PARASHAR both the names are same vide affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, MONICA SYLVIA JOHN residing at # 419, 7th Cross, Shree Balaji Krupa Layout, DR SRK Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560077 have changed my name to MONICA SYLVIA vide affidavit dated 04/03/2026 sworn before notary S R Ravikumar Bengaluru

I, MALIKA KHATOON w/o SHAIL KHATOON residing at #T P No 4856, New No 25, Tippu Mohalla, DJ Halli, Bangalore – 560045 have changed my name to MALLIKA KHATOON vide affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before notary C Sharada Bangalore

I, Saniya Kouser R/o Tayalur Mulbagar Tq Kolar Dist 563136 Have Changed My Name From Saniya Kouser to Saniya Kousar for All Purposes.

I, ANIMA SAHOO W/O Dilip Ranjan Sahoo, R/O No. 1192, Casa Paradiso 1, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bangalore - 560077 have changed my name from ANIMA BAL To ANIMA SAHOO.

I, Mohammed Fakhruddin Mumtaz S/o Mumtaz Mohiddin R/o #14 2nd cross masjid e iqlas Giddappa Block Ganganagar RT nagar Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Mohammed Fakhruddin for all purposes

I, SYEDA FAREEN S residing at #3313, First Floor, Prestige Kew Gardens Kempapura Bangalore – 560037 have changed my name to SYEDA FAREEN vide affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before notary C Sharada Bangalore

I, SUKANYA JAYANTH KUMAR, Residing atNo.1031/E 40th Cross, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore – 560041, have changed my name to SUKANYA JAYANTH, vide affidavit dated 02/03/2026 sworn before notary Venka-taraju H G, Bangalore.

I, AYSHA SULTANA MUSHTAK BAIG residing at #3313, First Floor, Prestige Kew Gardens Kempapura Bangalore – 560037 have changed my name to AYSHA SAABIR vide affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before notary C Sharada Bangalore

I Jamgiker Sapna R/o #2065, 2nd Floor,7th Block Janapriya Heavens Apts, Allalasandra B'luru-560065 have changed my name to Sapna.

I, Saddiq Khan, R/at No. 38, 2nd A Cross, Nagappa Layout, Behind East Point College, Subbanapalya, Bangalore-560 033, Have changed my name to Saddiq Khan F, For all purpose

I, Syed Muneer Ahmed R/o 11/12,2nd Main,2nd Cross, Maland School Street Mangammana Palya B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Syed Muneer Ahamed.

I Mansoor Ahmed mohidin Saheb R/o No.1/193, Rahath manzil, Kukkudelu, Belvai post, Mangalore,Dakshina Kannada.574213 have changed my name to Mansoor Ahmed.

I Komala Yogesh Naidu W/o Kishore Kumar V, No 90, 2nd Main Road, New K G Layout, Kathriguppe, BSK 3rd Stage, B'luru-560085, have changed my name To Komala Vellore

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I, Libni Johney Varghese S/o Johney Champakaparambil Varghese R/o-Flat No-K 750, Cedar Block, Brigade Orchards Spinal Road Devanahalli Bengaluru-562110 Have Chnaged My Name to Libni Varghese for All Purposes.

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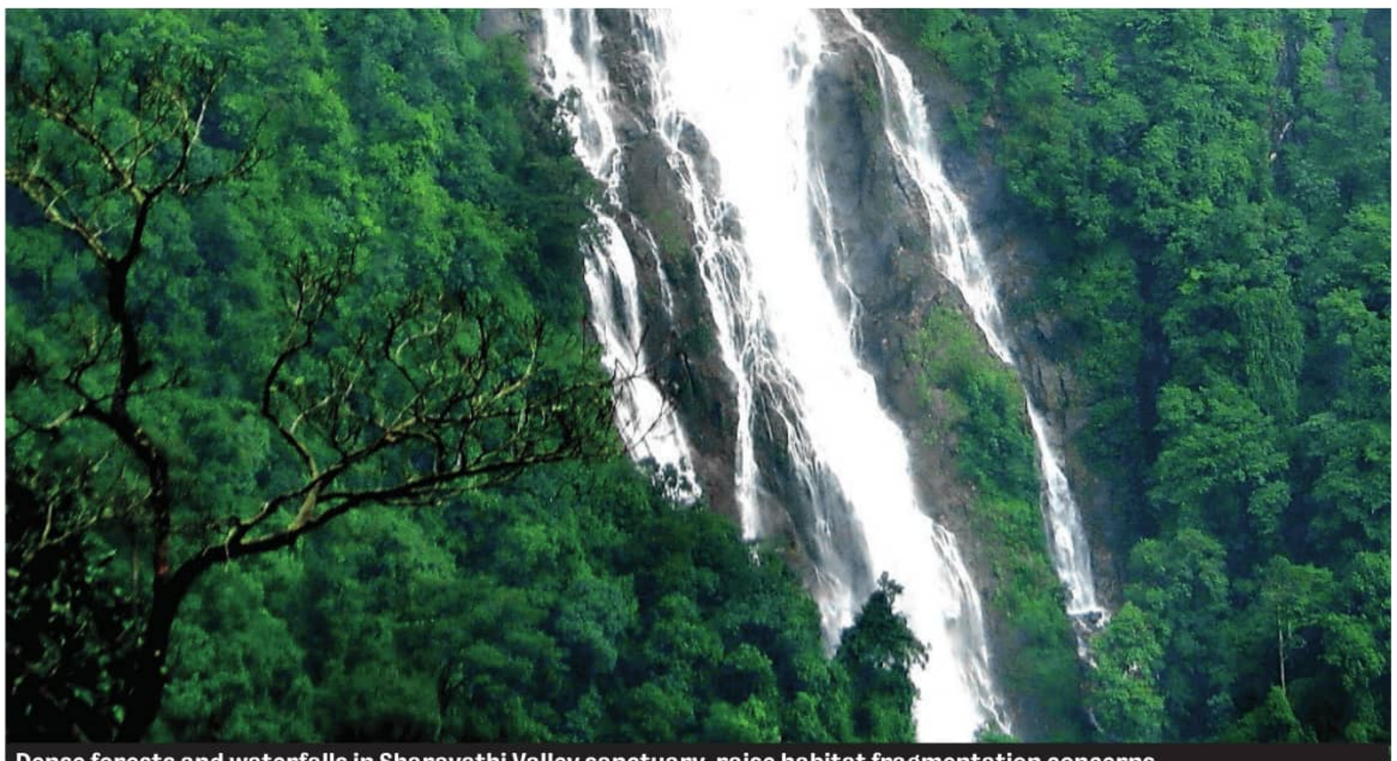
MAR: 13, 14**, 15*, 18, 22*, 23, 24**,28, 29*
APR: 1, 3**, 5*, 6, 11, 12*, 13**, 16, 19*, 21, 23**, 26
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITTY 10/7* DAYS
MAR 12,22,29* APR 2 5*12 12*19* 22 26*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
MAR: 22, 29, 30* APR: 5, 6*, 12, 13*, 19, 20*, 26, 27*
KERALA SPECIAL/ COASTAL KARNATAKA* 7/4* DAYS
MAR: 22, 25*, 29 APR: 1, 5, 8*, 12, 15*, 19, 22*, 26
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE MAR: 16, 23 APR: 6, 13, 20
SOUTH INDIA 9*/11 DAYS EX: HUBBALLI MAR: 19*, 23, APR: 3, 14, 25

Centre panel flags risks, rejects Sharavathi pumped storage project

Inspection committee says KPCL'S 2,000MW Sharavathi project threatens biodiversity, wildlife corridors, offers limited benefits

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



Dense forests and waterfalls in Sharavathi Valley sanctuary, raise habitat fragmentation concerns

In a major setback to the KPCL's 2,000MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project proposed in the fragile Western Ghats of Karnataka, a committee constituted by the central environment ministry has raised many red flags and has thus recommended rejection of the project.

A three-member committee that inspected the project site in December 2025 has flagged serious environmental and technical concerns in a 40-page report submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The report, accessed through a Right to Information (RTI) application, states that the proposed 2,000 MW hydro project lacks compelling technical merit, environmental sustainability, and alignment with public interest.

According to the committee, the project would not generate additional electricity but would primarily shift power availability to nighttime hours. As a pumped storage system, it would consume electricity to pump water during low-demand periods and release it later for power generation.

"When assessed holistically, the limited operational benefit offered by the project seems to be outweighed by the irreversible ecological, environmental, and social costs involved," the committee stated in the report. It added that the long-term implications for landscape integrity, biodiversity conservation, and the survival of rare and endemic species in the protected Western Ghats landscape are significant.

The committee also noted that the proposed project area lies within a legally protected and ecologically sensitive landscape that supports the northernmost viable population of the endangered lion-tailed macaque. The region also functions as an important tiger movement corridor and sustains several rare, endemic, and threatened species.

Centre panel urges rejection of Sharavathi hydropower project over ecological risks in Western Ghats

The project, proposed by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), requires a total land area of 142.763 hectares. Of this, 54.155 hectares fall within forest land inside the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone in the Shivamogga Wildlife Division (14.582 hectares), Sagar Territorial Division (39.719 hectares), and Honnavar Territorial Division (88.462 hectares).

The committee observed that the project could lead to habitat fragmentation, disturbance to wildlife, cumulative stress on forest and river ecosystems, and long-term ecological degradation in a region already affected by infrastructure development.

Despite opposition from environmentalists and local residents, the project had earlier received conditional clearance from the State Wildlife Board and the Karnataka government before being forwarded to the MoEF&CC for Stage-I forest clearance.

While raising serious objections, the committee also suggested mitigation measures if the project is considered unavoidable.

These include mandatory use of silent blasting techniques to reduce vibrations and acoustic disturbance to wildlife and installation of artificial canopy bridges every 250 metres in areas where tree canopies may be fragmented.

IN BRIEF

Volunteers revive neglected city footpath

Over 70 volunteers from CGI India, including several young children, participated in a cleanliness and beautification drive on Saturday morning along a stretch of Old Madras Road in Indiranagar, Bengaluru. The initiative focused on reclaiming a long-neglected footpath and public space extending from Halasuru Lake to the SV Road Metro Station, which had for years been marked by garbage dumps, urination spots, broken footpath slabs, and posters defacing the walls.

The properties along this stretch belong to multiple stakeholders, including the Indian Army's Madras Engineer Group (MEG), two graveyards, some vacant private lands, and the Old Binnamangala Lake area. Volunteers began by clearing accumulated garbage, removing posters, and cleaning the wall surface before repainting it.

The activity was carried out as part of CGI's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives supporting a city-wide campaign to reclaim footpaths and public spaces. The effort is being undertaken in partnership with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and citizen collective The Ugly Indians. Old Madras Road, linking Bengaluru's CBD with Whitefiled and the Outer Ring Road, is seeeing a citizen -led clean up drive to improve walkability and public spaces. —BMB

Volunteers beautify footpath

BM Trippin' Tales

Hampi tops Karnataka ASI tourism revenue, Lakkundi temple records lowest

The Archaeological Survey of India ticketed monuments in Karnataka show a sharp contrast in tourism revenue, with Hampi Group of Monuments emerging as the highest earning site while the Jain Temple and Sculpture Gallery records the lowest collections in the state.

The figures were shared in the Lok Sabha and detail visitor footfall and revenue generated at centrally protected monuments between 2022–23 and 2024–25.

The data shows that the Hampi monuments generated ₹5.09 crore in revenue in 2024–25, making it the highest-earning ASI-protected tourist site in Karnataka. The UNESCO World Heritage complex also recorded one of the highest visitor footfalls, with over 5.13 lakh visitors during the year. Tourism experts attribute this to Hampi's global recognition as a World Heritage site and its strong appeal among international tourists.

Tourists walk around the famous stone chariot at Hampi, part of the UNESCO heritage complex attracting over five lakh visitors annually

Following Hampi, Gol Gumbaz in Vijayapura emerged as the second-highest revenue generator, earning ₹2.10 crore in 2024–25 with a footfall of around 2.54 lakh visitors. The monument continues to be one of the most visited heritage sites in north Karnataka because of its historical significance and architectural scale.

The Group of Monuments at Pattadakal also recorded strong earnings, generating ₹1.27 crore, while Daria Daulat Bagh brought in around ₹1.29 crore in the same year.

Among other popular monuments, Chitradurga Fort generated about ₹88.11 lakh with a footfall exceeding one lakh visitors in 2024–25. Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace earned about ₹72.32 lakh, while the Keshava Temple generated 64.46 lakh.

In contrast, several smaller monuments recorded significantly lower tourism revenue. The Durga Temple generated about ₹62.94 lakh, while the Badami Cave Temples earned ₹1.04 crore. However, the lowest revenue among the listed monuments was recorded at the Jain Temple and Sculpture Gallery in Lakkundi, which generated only ₹4.64 lakh in 2024–25 despite being known for its intricate temple architecture.

Officials said improving infrastructure, connectivity and promotion could help lesser-known heritage sites attract more visitors and increase tourism revenue.

—Sridhar Vivan

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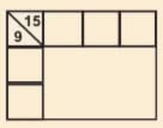
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

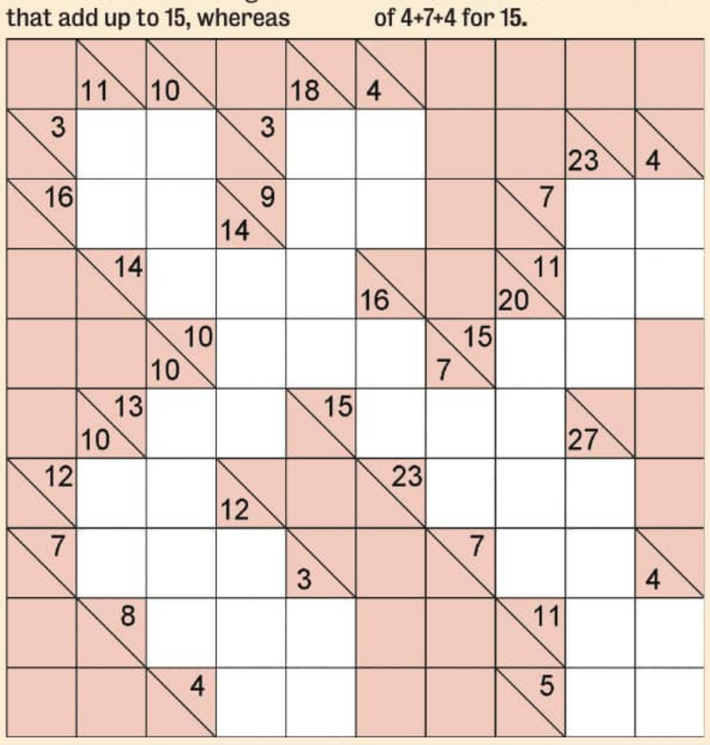
1, 5, 13, 29, 61, 25, ?

Kakuro

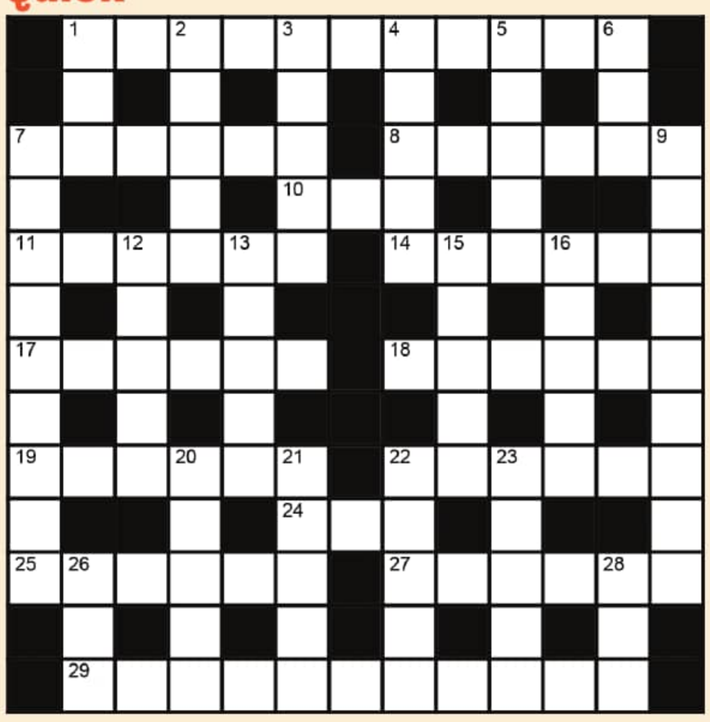
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Former South African Wicket-keeper (4,7)
7 Japanese plant growing art (6)
8 Squabbled (6)
10 One of a pair of listeners? (3)
11 ___ __ repute : don't expect him to speak the truth? (4,2)
14 Dealer in textile fabrics (6)
17 Raises or hauls up (6)
18 Madman (6)
19 Leaps over (6)
22 Mogadishu native (6)
24 Question of identity (3)
25 Cancel out (6)
27 Corrugated iron hut (6)
29 Limiting or confining (11)

DOWN

1 Electrical conductance unit (3)
2 One getting up from bed (5)
3 Short in duration (5)
4 Attractiveness (5)
5 Cartoon Viking (5)
6 Have regrets (3)
7 Amusement park and recreation centre in Cubbon Park (3,6)
9 Guidance (9)
12 Goodbye (5)
13 A group of eight musicians? (5)
15 Muse of poetry (5)
16 Porcelain (5)
20 Lends money (5)
21 Use bad language (5)
22 Alternative rockers ___ Youth (5)
23 Captain of Argentina's 2022 World Cup winning side (5)
26 Go wrong (3)
28 A little work (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS G

KYSXCT UKL TCS KWPKLB ONXTF AKQQXT.VBB; OIS SAVNV XB TC AKQQXTVBB PXSA.CIS KYSXCT.

Linemaro

Are you a weeping angel? I can't take my eyes off you

Mindchow

No man knows less than the man who knows it all

Joke of the day

I always wonder why do they fence a cemetery. Strange, since those inside can't get out and those outside don't want to get in

Loop

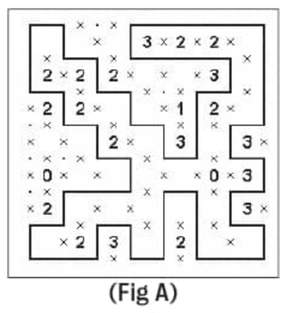
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

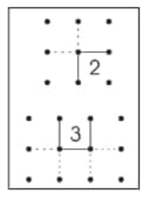
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

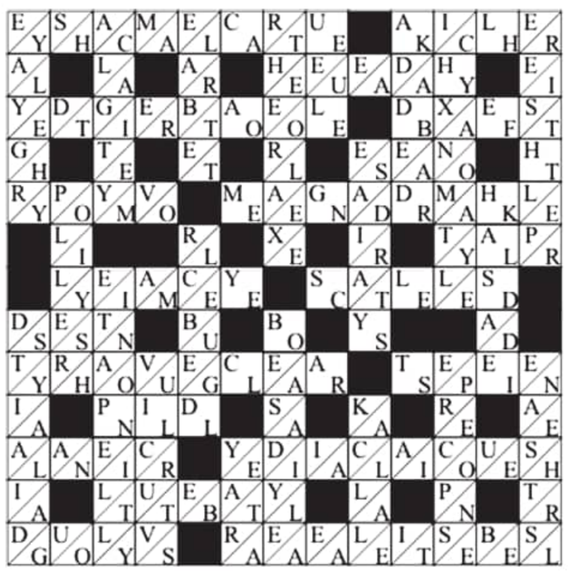


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4 L	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

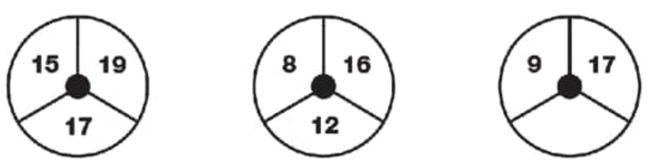
1 Le Pap; 6 Salon; 7 No API; 8 All II; 9 Tic us

DOWN

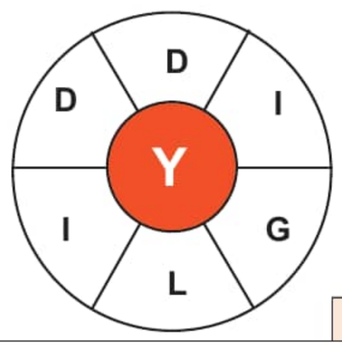
1 Picas; 2 Oil up; 3 Patil; 4 Liana; 5 Noels

Mensapuzzle

Which number fills the empty segment?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			8	4	5	2		
1		5				3	6	
					3			
2		3		9			4	
7			4		8			2
	5			7		8		9
			7					
	3	6				5		7
		8	5	6	4			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20

2 9 9 4

Medium = 10

4 7 8 2

Hard = 27

1 2 2 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

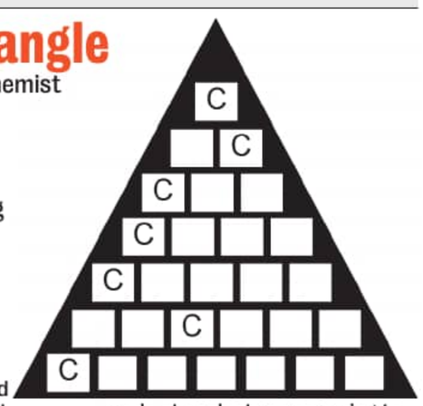
Differences: 1. Scarf is longer. 2. Mailbox is longer. 3. Man's collar is different. 4. Bow tie is missing. 5. Woman is taller. 6. Patch on sleeve is larger.

Riddler

Can you find a three-letter word that will go in front of each word in the group to make a new, compound word? For each group, the three-letter word will have just one letter changed from the answer to the previous group! (Example: Group 1 = Run, Group 2 = Fun) 1) Fight, walk, fish, nap 2) Back, throat, lass, let

Alpha triangle

1 Carbon for the chemist
2 Account, abbr.
3 Metal container
4 Tribe
5 Metallic sound
6 Fortifying; spiking
7 Vocation

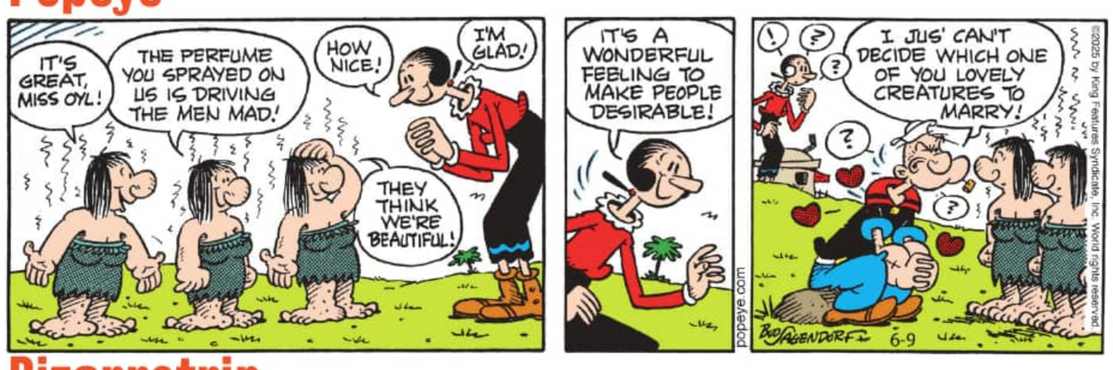


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


IT'S GREAT, MISS OYL!
THE PERFUME YOU SPRAYED ON US IS DRIVING THE MEN MAD!
HOW NICE!
I'M GLAD!
THEY THINK WE'RE BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S A WONDERFUL FEELING TO MAKE PEOPLE DESIRABLE!
I JUS' CAN'T DECIDE WHICH ONE OF YOU LOVELY CREATURES TO MARRY!
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popeye.com
BOB JAGENDORF 6-9

Bizarrotrip

The good news is the video of his surgery already has a million views on TikTok.
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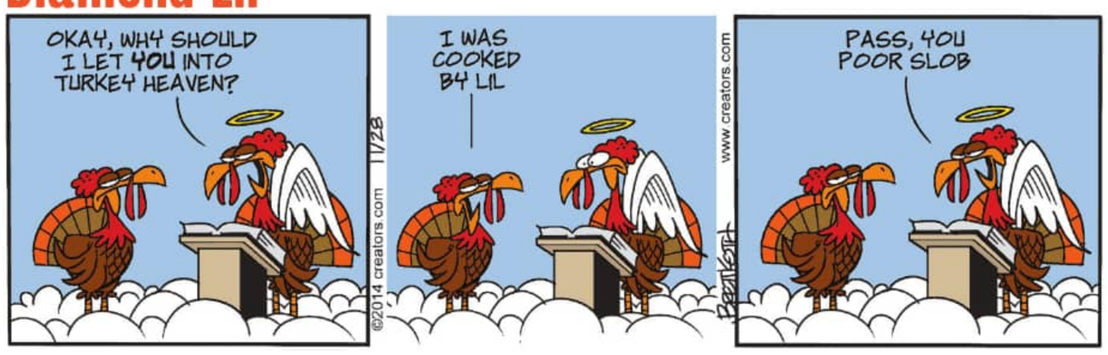
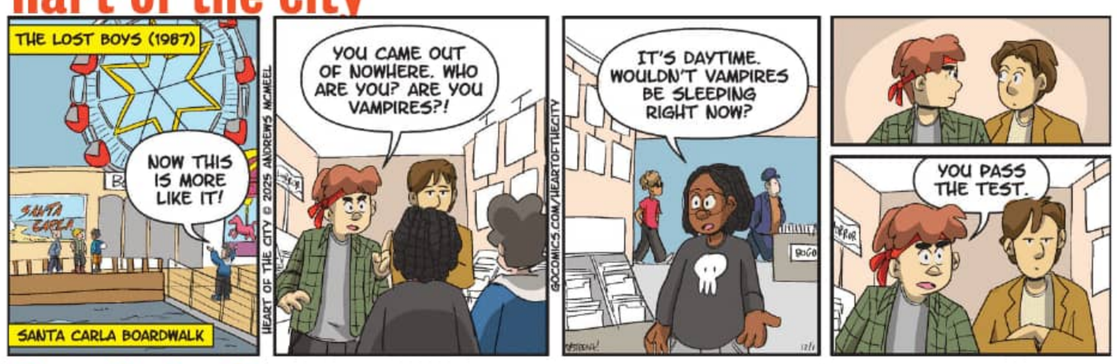
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city


THE LOST BOYS (1987)
NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
SANTA CARLA BOARDWALK
YOU CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU VAMPIRES?!
IT'S DAYTIME. WOULDN'T VAMPIRES BE SLEEPING RIGHT NOW?
YOU PASS THE TEST.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 AUDREWS MCMEEL
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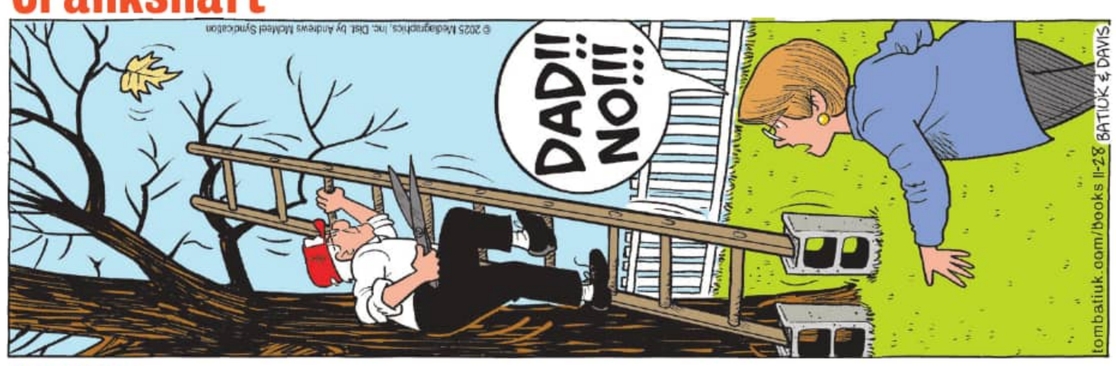
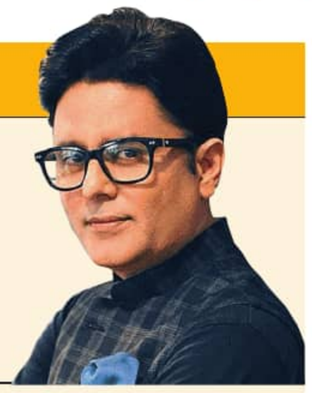
Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Leadership comes naturally today. Love feels secure and encouraging. Career progress follows decisive moves and clear communication. Financial confidence increases with structured planning. Travel brings purposeful connections. At home, you feel in control yet relaxed. Your ability to organize both emotions and responsibilities creates a strong sense of direction, helping everything align smoothly.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Start planning paths from your present to your ideal future now. Opportunities soon allow dreams becoming reality, so stay optimistic, smile often, trust timing, and keep believing as momentum builds.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

There is always something worth defending, and events today through Friday's reveal it. A cause needs people like you, unafraid to challenge norms, disrupt comfort, and rock boats.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

If you've been risk averse lately, that changes before month's end, but for now caution is wise. Don't gamble your future merely to impress particular people or prove anything unnecessary.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Reading between lines today reveals what motivates someone, helping you sidestep personality clashes. You needn't agree or align, just coexist peacefully without becoming opponents through empathy, awareness, patience, and restraint.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Be firm with someone who overstepped, yet avoid prolonging resentment. State your boundary clearly, then close the issue, signalling the matter is finished and goodwill can resume after respectful closure.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Early week moments force you to follow another's lead. You can't change circumstances now, so accept reality, adapt swiftly, and perform well within imposed limits with grace, patience, humility, flexibility.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

High energy doesn't require scattering efforts everywhere. Concentrate your physical and mental power in one direction today, and you'll achieve something truly exceptional through focus, discipline, commitment, clarity, drive, intent.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You prefer kindness, but authority is required now. Tell whoever pressures you that rules stand, warnings are limited, and they're already on the second notice with consequences imminent, clear, final.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Feedback from a friend may sting, yet it's helpful. Accept guidance graciously, adjust course accordingly, and thank them sincerely for supporting your improvement, growth, learning, progress, clarity, confidence, trust, respect.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Stop worrying about others' opinions and honour your nature. Especially socially, be authentic; you needn't perform or entertain to belong comfortably, stay true, set bound, choose quiet connection over spectacle.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Today's stars urge avoiding careless errors. If necessary, withdraw briefly, simplify demands, and wait patiently; hunkering down can be wise before conditions improve through rest, focus, review, reflection, calm, timing.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Advance plans confidently while the planets favour you, but consider others' needs too. Shared success is possible; cooperation ensures everyone can win together through empathy, balance, fairness, listening, respect, collaboration.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

1+2^2=1+4=5
5+2^3=5+8=13
13+2^4=13+16=29
29+2^5=29+32=61
61+2^6=61+64=125
125+2^7=125+128=253

RIDDLER

1) = cat (catlight, catwalk, catfish, catnap),
2) = cut (cutback, cutthroat, cutlass, cutlet)

FAST FIVE

A	P	P	L	E
S	O	L	A	N
P	I	A	N	O
I	L	I	A	L
C	U	T	I	S

BULL'S EYE

GIDDILY, giddy, idly

STRIKE OUT

E	S	C	A	L	A	T	E	■	A	C	H	E	S	
L	■	A	■	H	E	A	D	Y	■	I	■	■	■	
E	D	G	E	T	O	O	L	■	D	A	F	T	■	
G	■	E	■	R	■	E	E	N	■	H	■	■	■	
Y	O	Y	O	■	M	A	N	D	R	A	K	E	■	
■	I	■	R	■	X	■	I	■	T	A	R	■	■	
L	I	M	E	Y	■	S	T	E	E	D	■	■	■	
S	E	N	■	B	■	■	S	■	■	A	■	■	■	
T	R	A	V	E	L	E	R	■	S	P	I	N	■	
A	■	N	I	L	■	A	■	K	■	R	■	E	■	
L	A	I	R	■	E	D	A	C	I	O	U	S	■	
A	■	T	U	B	A	L	■	A	■	P	■	T	■	
G	U	Y	S	■	R	E	A	L	I	S	E	S	■	

QUICK

■	R	E	S	T	R	I	C	T	I	N	G	■	■	■
■	R	■	N	■	A	■	I	■	S	■	R	■	■	■
N	E	G	A	T	E	■	N	I	S	S	E	N	■	■
A	■	■	O	■	W	H	O	■	E	■	■	O	■	■
V	A	U	L	T	S	■	S	O	M	A	L	I	■	■
A	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	N	■	T	■	■
H	O	I	S	T	S	■	M	A	N	I	A	C	■	■
B	■	D	■	C	■	■	■	H	■	■	■	E	■	■
L	I	A	R	O	F	■	M	E	R	C	E	R	■	■
A	■	E	■	E	A	R	■	A	■	■	■	I	■	■
B	O	N	S	A	I	■	A	R	G	U	E	D	■	■
■	H	■	I	■	R	■	H	■	A	■	U	■	■	■
M	A	R	K	B	O	C	U	H	E	R	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

13. In each circle the lower number equals the average of the top two numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.

SUDOKU

3	6	9	8	4	5	2	7	1
8	2	7	6	1	3	9	5	4
1	4	5	9	2	7	3	6	8
2	8	3	1	9	6	7	4	5
7	9	1	4	5	8	6	3	2
6	5	4	3	7	2	8	1	9
5	1	2	7	3	9	4	8	6
4	3	6	2	8	1	5	9	7
9	7	8	5	6	4	1	2	3

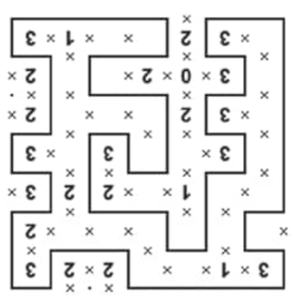
ALPHA TRIANGLE

C, AC, CAN, CLAN, CLANG, LACING, CALLING.

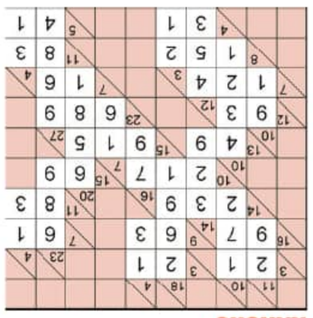
GO FIGURE

Easy
9 - 2 + 4 + 9 = 20
Medium
2 x 7 - 8 + 4 = 10
Hard
2 x 2 x 7 - 1 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Stepping into Bollywood
Actor Meenakshi Chaudhary to be seen in much-awaited sequel 'Bhagam Bhaag 2', sharing screen space with Bollywood star Akshay Kumar

Unconventional choices

Kajol opens up about her journey of 34 years in film industry

Kajol recently opened up about her upcoming projects and also shared her views on taking a sabbatical during the peak of her career. The actress expressed she has been exploring several ideas and scripts; however, nothing is finalised as of now. Let's take a look at what she had to say.

In an interview with Mid-Day, Kajol opened up about unconventional choices she made in her journey. She had played a negative role in the film 'Gupt: The Hidden Truth'. Later, she stepped away from movies during the peak of her career. Talking about the same, Kajol said, "I feel I was very stubborn and foolish, and I was proved right, fortunately. But I see so many women doing this all the time without being given any awards for it. I have made my own decisions, and I stand by them. I am grateful that all my eccentricities have been loved."

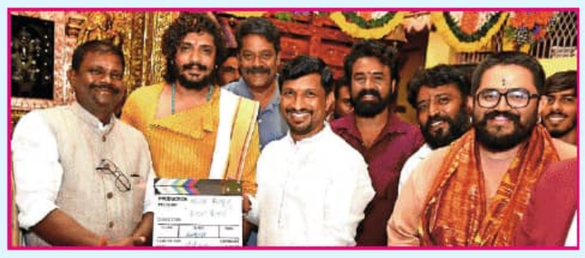
Kajol reveals if she has signed any project

In the same conversation, Kajol talked about her next projects. The actress said, "I'm listening to a lot of scripts. I have two or three things that I'm working on. But I have nothing concrete to tell you."

The actress also opened up about choosing a project wisely. Apart from the story, the actress also gives importance to seeing who she is working with while signing a film. She said, "It's important to me that I work with people whom I can relate to and talk to." — **ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Kadal Kote shoot begins



The first take of Vasishta Simha-starrer Kadal Kote was filmed at Sri Mahaganapathi Temple, Shree Kshetra Ganeshpura recently. Patla Sathish Shetty sounded the clapboard, Lokayukta Superintendent of Police BP Dinesh Kumar switched on the camera and several prominent personalities were in attendance. The movie, supported by Dharmendra under the Janaki Combines banner, is directed by Ranjith Kumar Gowda.

According to Gowda, Kadal Kote revolves around a gangster in the coastal region of Karnataka. "The movie is about gangsters who attempt to take control of the harbour. It will focus on what happens when a person chases riches. Other than the gangster element, the film also focuses on family sentiments, friendship, and love. A few real incidents inspired me to write the script for this movie. Its shooting is planned in and around Udupi, Surathkal, Mangalore Harbour, and Bengre for 65 days. The movie has five songs," he said. Dharmendra makes his debut as a producer with this movie. "I narrated a few real incidents to director Gowda and asked him to write the script. I am sure audiences will like this movie," said Dharmendra.

Sneak peek

The trailer of Love Mocktail 3 was unveiled by Pari, the daughter of Darling Krishna and Milana Nagaraj who play the lead pair in the movie that is scheduled to arrive in theaters on March 17. The trailer launch event was held at MMB Legacy on Saturday. Suprith of KVN Productions and lyric writer Raghavendra Kamath and the cast and crew of the movie were present on the occasion.

Appreciating the cast and crew, Darling Krishna, who has also directed the movie, said that had been to Goa for three days to conceptualise an idea to script. "After getting an idea, I find it tough to focus on it at home. So, I had to go to Goa and spend three days to work on that idea," he said.

Milana Nagaraj said that many people asked her what made them release the movie on March 17 while a few big-budget movies are also scheduled for release at the same time. "The movie has turned out well and so we decided to go ahead with its release on March 17," said Milana.

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